

24 October 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: DCI Response to PFIAB on COINS

REFERENCE: Memo to DCI fr AD/DCI/IC dtd 12 Oct 73,
same subject

1. My vote on [] package would be for Version 2. There is a multiplicity of networks in various planning stages in COINS, IDHS, the NMCCS, etc., and the Analytical Content paragraph inclusion could help clarify relationships and design. Paul Walsh does raise a point worth considering in the provision of direct "consumer" access to intelligence files, but that potential, and inevitable, future condition should be anticipated with planning and experimentation.

2. I did express, orally, my comments on some of the other paragraphs, but don't see much reflection of those comments in the text:

a. User assistance: I am not sure that cross-reference notations and user instructions are all that necessary. I won't argue the principle, but I do know that modification of the programs could be a considerable chore.

b. File reliability: I agree with the principle here, but this too needs discussion. "Producing and maintaining" files has been limited, essentially, to making available extant departmental files for Community use. The assignment of an Executive Agent file-maintenance role (a long-sought COINS manager goal to eliminate duplication) has cultural shock overtones for CIA analysts, at least. We will probably reach such a point, given continued resource constraints, but its implications shouldn't be sloughed off as trivial.

[]
Charles A. Briggs
Director of Planning,
Programming, and Budgeting

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